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SUBJECT Bill to Protect U.S. Secret Agents

ROBERT GARCIA: President Reagan ventured out to the Washington suburbs today, a visit to Langley in Northern Virginia, home of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Kitty Falcone explains the purpose of the presidential journey to the nerve center of America's intelligence community.

KITTY FALCONE: Hundreds of CIA employees gathered under the sun on the grassy hill outside agency headquarters to watch the President sign into law a bill designed to protect them. It's called the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, and it makes it a crime to disclose names of American spies, even if that information is contained in public records.

It's been criticized for cutting into First Amendment rights, but Mr. Reagan said there's nothing to worry about.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: The Congress has carefully drafted this bill so that it focuses only on those who would transgress the bounds of decency, not those who would exercise their legitimate right of dissent.

FALCONE: Despite the President's assurances, some civil rights groups already plan to challenge the law in court.

Kitty Falcone, at the White House.

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